

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

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FROM :

SUBJECT: **BF/FDD**

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*File
Balloon Genl*

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1. Attached is an item scheduled for appearance in Military Report #4 dated 11 December 1957.

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US Navy Balloon Captured

A news item datelined 17 September 1957 from K'ung-sing, Yunnan Province, on page 4 of the 20 September 1957 issue of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao reported that anti-aircraft units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stationed along the Yunnan border shot down a US Navy aerial reconnaissance balloon on 2 September 1957 over Lan-ts'ang Hsien, Yunnan Province. This balloon came from the direction of Kwangsi Province and was headed in a southwesterly direction.

Attached to the balloon was a ~~box~~^{bag} which contained a transmitter and dry cell and other batteries for the ~~transmitter~~ transmitter. Both the box and the transmitter were labelled "U.S. Navy" and "U.S. Navy Aerial ~~Trans~~ Transmitter."

A message in several languages requested the finder of the instrument to notify the weather bureau of the U.S. Navy in Washington.

As long ago as January and February 1956, U.S. military authorities had openly sent military reconnaissance balloons over China for the purpose of photographing China's terrain. In February and July 1956, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China made a strong protest to the U.S. over this matter and demanded the cessation of such provocative acts.

The sending of a military reconnaissance balloon over China's territorial air openly by the U.S. Navy is additional clear evidence of overt enemy activity by U.S. authorities against China.

VOID